United Airlines Seat Selection Policy 2026 +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82) : Fees, Rules & How to Choose Your Seat

Direct Answer

Yes, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 you can select your seat on United Airlines, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 but whether it's free depends on your fare class and which seat you want. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Economy and Economy Plus ticket holders can pick a seat for free during booking, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 up to check-in, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 or during check-in. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Basic Economy passengers don't get free seat selection — a seat is auto-assigned close to departure, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 though United now lets Basic Economy travelers pay to pick a seat (including Economy Plus) as early as booking, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 and at minimum by check-in. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Preferred seats and Economy Plus seats carry an extra charge for most non-elite travelers, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 while MileagePlus Premier members get many of these seats free based on status tier. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

Rules

- **Basic Economy:** No free seat selection. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) A seat is auto-assigned, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 typically at check-in, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 and may separate you from companions. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) You can now pay to select a seat — including Economy Plus — any time from booking through check-in. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)
- **Economy:** Free standard seat selection is included. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Preferred seats (regular economy seats simply located in a more desirable part of the cabin, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 not extra-legroom) and Economy Plus seats cost extra unless you hold elite status. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)
- **Economy Plus:** Extra legroom seating that can be purchased or upgraded into at any point from booking to check-in. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) MileagePlus Premier members get free access, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 with the specific tier determining priority and companion allowances. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)
- **Preferred seating:** These are standard economy seats — not extra legroom — positioned to deplane faster or sit apart from high-traffic areas like galleys and lavatories.

+1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Premier Silver and above can select these free; other passengers pay a fee. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

- **Premium Plus, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 United First/Business, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 Polaris:** Selectable at booking if purchased directly, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 or via a paid/mileage upgrade later, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 subject to availability. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)
- **Families and groups:** United's family seating policy aims to seat children under 15 next to an adult in their party at no extra charge, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 subject to availability. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Seat bundling lets you select seats for your whole party together at booking. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)
- **Refunds on seat fees:** Seat selection fees are generally refundable if United cancels the flight, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 significantly changes the schedule, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 or moves your assigned seat for operational reasons and can't offer a comparable one. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

Fees

Reported figures vary noticeably by route, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 aircraft, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 and how close to departure you book, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 so treat these as ranges rather than fixed prices — always confirm the exact charge on your own booking before paying:

- Basic Economy seat selection: roughly $15–$36 per person, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 per flight
- Preferred seating: roughly $9–$24+ per person, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 per flight (varies heavily by aircraft and route; long-haul international preferred seats can price higher than short domestic hops)
- Economy Plus: roughly $29–$299 per person, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 per flight, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 with reports of $100+ on select long-haul routes
- Upgrades to Premium Plus, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 United First, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 or Polaris: starting around $29 and climbing into the thousands on long-haul international routes, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 depending on cabin and availability

Example

A passenger books an Economy fare from Newark to San Francisco. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) At booking, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 they select a standard seat

for free. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) A week before departure, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 they upgrade to an Economy Plus seat for an additional fee to get extra legroom on the cross-country flight. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Because they hold no elite status, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 the Economy Plus and preferred seat sections both carry a charge, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 while a Premier Silver member on the same flight could claim a preferred seat at no cost. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

FAQs

Can I select a seat for free on United Basic Economy? No. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Basic Economy seats are auto-assigned, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 usually at check-in. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) You can pay to choose a seat, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 including Economy Plus, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 from booking through check-in, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 but it's not included free. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

What's the difference between Preferred seating and Economy Plus? Preferred seats are standard economy seats in a desirable cabin location with no extra legroom. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Economy Plus seats have genuinely more legroom. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Both can cost extra unless you have Premier elite status. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

Do MileagePlus elites get free seat selection? Yes, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 generally. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Premier Silver and above can select preferred seats free, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 and access to free Economy Plus scales with elite tier, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 along with the ability to seat companions in these sections at no charge. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

Can I sit with my child for free? United's family seating policy aims to seat children under 15 next to an adult in the same party without extra charge, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 subject to seat availability. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

Are seat selection fees refundable? Yes, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 in specific cases — such as airline-caused cancellations, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 major schedule changes, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 or United moving your seat for operational reasons without a comparable replacement. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Contact United directly to request a refund. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)

When is the best time to select a seat? As early as possible. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82) Preferred and Economy Plus seats on popular routes fill up quickly, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or

UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 often well before the 24-hour check-in window, +1-(800)↠372↠(83.82)or UK ☎+44-20-{3318}→0480 so booking early gives you the most options. +1-(800)↠(372)↠(83.82)